



## **ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL**

<https://www.apaac.az.gov>

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY HAS AWARDED A PROPOSITION 207 FUND GRANT TO THE ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE "PROSECUTING THE MARIJUANA-IMPAIRED DRIVER" TRAINING**

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety ("GOHS") has awarded a grant of \$16,851.52 in Proposition 207 Funds to the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council ("APAAC") to provide "Prosecuting Marijuana-Impaired Driver" training and education statewide.

APAAC is composed of twenty-six (26) Council members, including the Attorney General, the fifteen elected county attorneys, eight chief municipal prosecutors, a representative of the Administrative Office of the Arizona Supreme Court, and the dean of one of the state's law schools. Since the 1970's, APAAC has sought to provide training for the state, county, and municipal prosecutors through the development of programs and services. The Council actively advocates on behalf of these Ministers of Justice who work to preserve public safety, serve victims, and achieve justice for all. APAAC is a key resource for collaborating with its prosecutorial counterparts nationwide and coordinating joint training efforts. APAAC receives no state general fund revenues and depends on a continuing appropriation through the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund to provide the necessary training and education of public prosecutors. APAAC's training courses were attended by 5945 people last fiscal year and provided over 282 hours of continuing legal education to its community of prosecutors.

In recent years, drug-impaired driving has become a major highway safety issue. According to a study of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, from 2007-2013 there was a 48% increase in weekend nighttime drivers who tested positive for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)—the chemical responsible for marijuana's psychological effects. GOHS recognizes that marijuana-impaired driving is a chronic problem that endangers public safety. With the \$16,851.52 grant received from GOHS, APAAC will present a two-day training for "Prosecuting the Marijuana-Impaired Driver." This course is dedicated to training approximately 25 Arizona prosecutors on the best practices and latest technology available to effectively prosecute marijuana-impaired driving related crimes to keep our communities and roads safer. APAAC is grateful for the opportunity to continue to partner with GOHS and advance the mission of empowering prosecutors through training and advocacy to serve as Ministers of Justice.